

3/10/08

Good Afternoon Honorable Senators and Representatives

My name is Michelle Edwards and I am a graduate student at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work in West Hartford, CT.

I am here today to testify on Bill number S.B. 609 (RAISED), "AN ACT CONCERNING MANDATED REPORTERS."

I am in support of this legislation and would hope that you will support it.

Mandated reporters are those professionals who, because their work involves contact with children, are mandated by law to report suspected child abuse and neglect. Examples of mandated reporters include but are not limited to, social workers, pediatricians, and school personnel. While superintendents may not have direct contact with children every day, the superintendent's position is the most critical leadership role in the school system. School superintendents share a moral and professional responsibility with their staff for the welfare of the students attending their schools. Including school superintendent's as mandated reporters demonstrates consistency in the current policy and a commitment to preserve the safety and welfare of Connecticut's children.

Thank you for the opportunity to present in support of this legislation.

I would be very happy to answer any questions.